

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method for trading a commodity, comprising:
 - receiving, in encoded form via a computer network, a plurality of bids and a plurality of offers pertaining to a common commodity;
 - displaying the bids and offers on a computer monitor;
 - generating a trading offer including a trading rate or price per unit of the commodity, and a number of units of the commodity, the trading offer additionally including identification of the stop value as a stop amount per unit of the commodity;
 - automatically calculating a total stop amount for the trading offer, the total stop amount being a monetary amount required to cover a stop execution on the trading offer, the total stop amount including a primary quantity equal to a stop value multiplied by the number of units of the commodity included in the trading offer;
 - automatically comparing the total stop amount with an available amount in a client or trader account; and
 - transmitting a digital signal encoding the trading offer over the computer network for distribution to multiple traders.
2. (previously presented) The method defined in claim 1 wherein the calculating of the total stop amount includes computing the primary quantity and a slippage amount.
3. (original) The method defined in claim 2 wherein the calculating of the slippage amount includes automatically multiplying a default slip per unit of the commodity times the identified number of units of the commodity in the trading offer.
4. (original) The method defined in claim 1, further comprising automatically allocating or reserving the total stop amount from the available amount in the client or trader account.
5. (original) The method defined in claim 4, further comprising canceling at least a portion of the trading offer and automatically returning at least a portion of the allocated or reserved amount to the client or trader account upon such cancellation.

6. (original) The method defined in claim 1 wherein the digital signal is transmitted upon and only upon a determination that the total stop amount is less than the available amount in the client or trader account.

7. (currently amended) ~~The method defined in claim 1 wherein~~ A method for trading a commodity, comprising:

receiving, in encoded form via a computer network, a plurality of bids and a plurality of offers pertaining to a common commodity;

displaying the bids and offers on a computer monitor;

generating a trading offer including a trading rate or price per unit of the commodity, and a number of units of the commodity;

automatically calculating a total stop amount for the trading offer, the total stop amount being a monetary amount required to cover a stop execution on the trading offer, the total stop amount including a primary quantity equal to a stop value multiplied by the number of units of the commodity included in the trading offer;

automatically comparing the total stop amount with an available amount in a client or trader account; and

transmitting a digital signal encoding the trading offer over the computer network for distribution to multiple traders,

the generating of the trading offer and the comparing of the total stop amount with the available amount in the client or trader account ~~[[are]]~~ being performed by a client or trader computer connected to the computer network.

8. (original) The method defined in claim 1 wherein the transmitting of the digital signal includes directing the digital signal to a server computer connected to the computer network, the server computer distributing the trading offer to the traders.

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. (original) The method defined in claim 1, further comprising:

displaying on the monitor a prompt for entry of a stop value; and
determining that a respective stop value has been selected for the trading offer,
forwarding, via the computer network, the respective stop value to a server computer
together with the trading offer.

12. (original) The method defined in claim 1, further comprising:
displaying on the monitor a prompt for entry of a limit value; and
determining that a respective limit value has been selected for the trading offer,
forwarding, via the computer network, the respective limit value to a server computer
together with the trading offer.

13. (original) The method defined in claim 1, further comprising:
displaying on the monitor a prompt for entry of a time period for which the trading offer
remains valid and capable of being accepted;
determining that a respective time period has been selected for the trading offer;
determining when the time period is terminated; and
canceling the trading offer upon termination of the time period.

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (previously presented) A method for trading currencies, comprising:
receiving, via a computer network, digital signals together encoding a plurality of bids
and a plurality of offers pertaining to a common currency;
displaying the bids in a first monotonic sequence on a computer monitor;
simultaneously displaying the offers in a second monotonic sequence on the computer
monitor;
monitoring a computer input device;
upon detecting a signal from the input device of a predetermined type encoding a trading
order for requesting a transaction on one of the bids and the offers, automatically calculating a

total currency amount for carrying out the order and comparing the total currency amount with a capital amount available in a given account to determine if the capital amount is sufficient; and
upon and only upon determining that sufficient capital is available in the account,
transmitting an order signal over the computer network to a server computer, the order signal encoding the trading order for requesting a transaction on the one of the bids and the offers.

17. (previously presented) The method defined in claim 16, further comprising:
displaying on the monitor a plurality of prompts for particulars of a trading offer, the prompts including prompts to enter a price per unit of the currency and a total number of units of the currency;
determining entry via the input device of a trading offer including at least a price per currency unit and a total number of currency units; and
forwarding the trading offer over the computer network to multiple other traders on the computer network.

18. (original) The method defined in claim 17, further comprising:
displaying on the monitor a prompt for entry of a stop value; and
determining that the trading offer includes a respective stop value,
the forwarding the trading offer including transmission of the respective stop value to the server computer.

19. (original) The method defined in claim 17, further comprising:
displaying on the monitor a prompt for entry of a limit value; and
determining that the trading offer includes a respective limit value,
the forwarding the trading offer including transmission of the respective limit value to the server computer.

20. (original) The method defined in claim 17, further comprising:
displaying on the monitor a prompt for entry of a time period for which the trading offer remains valid and capable of being accepted;
determining that the trading offer includes a respective time period;
determining when the time period is terminated; and

canceling the trading offer upon termination of the time period.

21. (original) The method defined in claim 16 wherein the computer network is a global computer network, further comprising downloading from the computer network a program enabling and controlling the displaying of the bids and the offers on the computer monitor in response to the digital signals.

22. (previously presented) A method for use in trading currencies, comprising:
displaying, on a computer monitor connected to a computer in turn connected to a computer network, a plurality of prompts for particulars of a trading offer, the prompts including prompt to enter a price per unit of a currency and a total number of units of the currency;
determining entry, via an input device of the computer, of a trading offer including at least a price per currency unit and a total number of currency units;
automatically determining whether sufficient capital exists in a given account of a trader utilizing the computer, to cover a trade executable on the trading offer for the total number of currency units; and
upon and only upon determining that sufficient capital exists in the given account, forwarding the trading offer over the computer network to other traders on the computer network.

23. (original) The method defined in claim 22, further comprising:
displaying on the monitor a prompt for entry of a stop value; and
determining that the trading offer includes a respective stop value,
the forwarding the trading offer including transmission of the respective stop value to the server computer.

24. (original) The method defined in claim 22, further comprising:
displaying on the monitor a prompt for entry of a limit value; and
determining that the trading offer includes a respective limit value,
the forwarding the trading offer including transmission of the respective limit value to the server computer.

25. (original) The method defined in claim 22, further comprising:
displaying on the monitor a prompt for entry of a time period for which the trading offer remains valid and capable of being accepted;
determining that the trading offer includes a respective time period;
determining when the time period is terminated; and
canceling the trading offer upon termination of the time period.

26-54. (canceled)

55. (previously presented) A currency trading method comprising:
receiving at a server computer a first digital signal over a computer network from a client's computer, the first digital signal encoding a trading offer including identification of a currency, a trading rate or price per unit of the currency, and a number of units of the currency;
operating the server computer to maintain (i) a first queue of bids ordered by price per currency unit and times of extending of the respective bids and (ii) a second queue of offers to sell ordered by price per currency unit and times of extending of the respective offers to sell;
operating the server computer to determine whether the trading offer matches any entry in the first queue and the second queue; and
upon detection by the server computer of a match between the trading offer and a particular entry in the one of the first queue and the second queue, operating the server computer to (a) modify accounts of traders who made the trading offer and the particular entry, (b) remove the particular entry from the one of the first queue and the second queue, (c) transmit signals over the computer network to advise all logged-in traders of the match, and (d) sending specific confirmation to the traders who made the trading offer and the particular entry.

56. (previously presented) The method defined in claim 55, wherein the trading offer is placed in a respective one of the first queue and the second queue upon receiving of the trading offer at the server computer, the operating of the server computer to determine whether the trading offer matches any entry in the first queue and the second queue including comparing the bids to the offers to sell to determine whether a match has occurred, the server being operated, upon detection by the server computer of the match between the trading offer and the particular

entry, to remove the trading offer and the particular entry from respective ones of the first queue and the second queue.

57. (original) The method defined in claim 55, further comprising operating the server computer to:

log in traders as log-in requests arrive;

supervise the establishment of multiple private chat forums; and

distribute messages among logged-in traders according to established chat forums.

58-73. (canceled)